

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Request to Use CARES Child Restraint System for Larger/Older Persons

I am writing to request an exemption from 14 CFR § 121.311(b) to the extent required for Jaiden Parmenter to be able to use an FAA Approved Child Restraint System even though he exceeds the weight limits for the CRS. In addition, if my petition is granted, I request that any air carrier or commercial operator operating under part 121 while Jaiden is aboard its aircraft is granted an exemption from 14 CFR § 121.311(b)(2)(iii)(B) to the extent necessary to allow Jaiden to exceed the specified weight limit for an FAA-approved child restraint system during use of that child restraint system aboard an aircraft.

I believe the pertinent section from 14 CFR part 121 from which we seek relief is Section 121.311 Seats, safety belts, and shoulder harnesses.

My son is 15 years old, weighs 68 pounds, and is 55 inches tall. My son's physical condition is as follows, Cerebral Palsy, Spastic Quadriplegic. As a result of his physical condition, he needs the support and security provided by an FAA Approved Child Restraint, but because of his weight, is incapable of compliance with the regulation. **I am also submitting the following contact information: Sarah Parmenter, 307 Jeannie Lane, Harrisburg, SD 57032 sdomangue07@hotmail.com.**

I understand that the regulation is written to create a high level of safety for each individual passenger by ensuring that they are securely restrained in their seats during all phases of flight. The regulation also ensures that an individual does not cause harm to other passengers on the airplane by being thrown into them during turbulent or emergency conditions.

I propose that Jaiden Parmenter be allowed to occupy an FAA Approved Child Restraint (CARES, manufactured by AmSafe, Inc.), even though he exceeds the manufacturer's weight limits. This ensures a high level of safety for Jaiden and a high level of safety for the other passengers and crew on the airplane. In fact, in Jaiden's case, safety is greatly enhanced by the extra support and security that the FAA Approved Restraint System will provide during the entire flight.

Enhancing safety for Jaiden is in the public interest. In addition, the public interest is also served by the fact that the use of this FAA Approved Child Restraint System allows him to use commercial air transportation. Without the support and security of the FAA Approved Child Restraint System, he would have many physical challenges flying commercially.

I also believe that, with certain limitations established by the FAA in a grant to this petition, there can be an equivalent level of safety to that provided by the affected regulation. The CARES restraint has been certified by the manufacturer for use by children 22-44 pounds. However, the components of the CARES restraint are the same as those used in restraints for adults on aircraft and would maintain their integrity if used by someone who weighed several hundred pounds.

I also request that the processing of this petition not be delayed for publication and comment in the Federal Register. We plan to travel on December 24, 2021. If you take the time to put this in the Federal Register, it will delay the process and we may not be able to travel in this timeframe.

If it is necessary to put a summary in the Federal Register, I submit the following:

This is a request for an exemption from FAR 121.311 (b) to the extent required for a child to use an FAA Approved Child Restraint System on an aircraft, even though the child exceeds the weight limits for the CRS. We request that this child be allowed to occupy an FAA Approved Child Restraint (CARES, manufactured by AmSafe, Inc.) during all aspects of the flight, (boarding, taxi, take off, and landing) even though he exceeds the manufacturer's weight limits of 44 pounds. In this case, the safety of this child is greatly enhanced by the extra support and security that the FAA Approved Restraint System will provide for her during the flight.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sarah Parmenter